

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

### June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1      Changes in the Temporary Foreign Workers Program

Do you work in Alberta under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program? How did you apply for this program? This story is about changes being made to the federal program.

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. criticism	a) the state of working but looking for a job
	2. federal	b) empty, needing to be filled
	3. temporary	c) a maximum (or minimum) number allowed
	4. unemployment	d) speak for
	5. apply	e) judge negatively
	6. limit	f) for a short time
	7. hire	g) have a difficult time
	8. vacancy	h) for the whole country
	9. struggle	i) to give a job to someone
	10. represent	j) ask for a job or position

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**migrant worker** – a person who moves around to find work

**exploitation**- to use someone, often to make a profit

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ The Federal government is being praised for changes it made to the Temporary Foreign Workers program.
2. \_\_\_\_ Employers in places with high unemployment are now not allowed to apply for a temporary foreign worker.
3. \_\_\_\_ Workplaces will be able to hire unlimited temporary foreign workers.
4. \_\_\_\_ Alberta Jobs Minister says the changes will benefit the province.
5. \_\_\_\_ Alberta has the highest job vacancy rate in Canada.
6. \_\_\_\_ The changes will not end the exploitation of migrant workers in low paying jobs.

### Discussion Question

How do you think foreign workers are being exploited? What kind of treatment do you expect as an employee at a worksite here in Alberta?

## News story #2 Canadian Journalist in Prison in Egypt

What is the job of a journalist? Would you want to be a journalist? This story is about a journalist who believes he was imprisoned for doing his job.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<b>colleague (noun)</b>	a person you work with	<b>sham (noun)</b>	a pretend act or thing; not real
<b>sentence (noun)</b>	a punishment given by a judge for a crime	<b>ruling (noun)</b>	verdict; the decision by the judge
<b>verdict (noun)</b>	the decision or judgment; ruling	<b>prosecuted (verb)</b>	taken to court to determine if one is guilty of breaking the law
<b>stunned (adj)</b>	shocked or surprised	<b>released (verb)</b>	to be let go; freed
<b>terrorist (noun)</b>	a person/group that uses violence to create fear, often for a political purpose		

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**Muslim Brotherhood** – an organization that became the first democratically elected government of Egypt in 2012

**Amnesty International** – a non-government organization that fights for human rights and tries to free political prisoners using peaceful means

1. I am fortunate that all my \_\_\_\_\_ are very supportive at work.
2. The Muslim Brotherhood is considered a \_\_\_\_\_ group by some governments.
3. After a person is charged with a crime they will be \_\_\_\_\_. After the trial they must wait for the \_\_\_\_\_ (guilty or innocent) given by the judge (or jury). If the \_\_\_\_\_ is guilty the judge must then give an appropriate \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If a punishment is too short or long the public may be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The family always hopes their loved one is \_\_\_\_\_ from prison early.
6. If a trial is not taken seriously by the lawyers or judge it may be called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who is Mohamed Fahmy?
2. How long of a sentence was Fahmy and his colleagues given?
3. What were the Al-Jazeera journalists charged with?
4. How long was their trial?
5. How did Amnesty International describe the trial?
6. What is Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird doing?

**Re-tell the news story:** Can you re-tell the story you have just heard in your own words. Try it out with your partner.

### News story #3 Biting in the World Cup

Have you been watching the world cup? What team are you cheering for and how is that team doing? This story is about the strange behaviour of one player from Uruguay.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

#### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) headline	a) protector guard
	2) appear to	b) competitor challenger
	3) defender	c) title heading
	4) penalized	d) event episode
	5) incident	e) prohibited stopped
	6) opponent	f) look like seen as
	7) banned	g) disciplined punished

#### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**tweets** – a short message posted on Twitter – a popular social network

**suspended** – to stop for a short time as a punishment for some action

**ruled out** – to not include

**heated** – controversial; argued over

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Uruguay star Luis Suarez took all the headlines last week for _____.	a) arguing over his side's 1-0 win. b) appearing to bite an Italian defender.
2. He was not _____ and a minute later Uruguay scored its only goal.	a) defending well against the Italian player b) penalized for biting the Italian player
3. Suarez has been banned for the next nine international games, _____ for the rest of the World Cup.	a) which rules him out b) which means he will be bored
4. Suarez has been suspended twice before in his career for _____.	a) fighting with an opponent. b) biting an opponent.
5. So, of course, social media immediately took _____ of Suarez.	a) a bite out b) advantage
6. A lot of tweets _____ in a remake of movies such as the shark in Jaws or a vampire in Twilight.	a) suggested he create a role b) suggested a future for him

### Discussion Question

What is good sportsmanship? What are some examples, besides biting, of poor sportsmanship?  
How should poor sportsmanship be penalized in international games?

## Language Focus

### Identifying verbs ending in 'ing'

#### Present continuous verbs - (be) + verb ending in 'ing'

When do we use the present continuous?

- To show an action is happening right now that will end in the future (You **are studying** English.)
- To show a definite plan for the future (I **am going** to take a rest later.)

**Gerund** – a verb ending in 'ing' that acts as a noun in a sentence.

When do we use gerunds?

- If we put two verbs beside each other often the second verb is an infinitive (to + base form) but it can be a gerund. Only certain verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund (like, love, want, enjoy, regret...)
- If there is a verb after a preposition, it will be a gerund.
- Gerunds can be the subject or the object of a sentence or phrase

**Adjectives** ending in *ing* – used to describe the characteristic of a person or thing

To identify the present continuous, gerund or adjective:

- Notice verbs ending in 'ing'
- Look for the 'be' verb before the verb ending in 'ing'
- If the 'be' verb is present, the word will be the verb in the present continuous form
- If the 'be' verb is not present, the word ending in 'ing' may be a gerund
- If the word comes before or after a noun that it describes it will be an adjective

Look at some examples from the first news story. Decide if the present continuous verb or the gerund is being used in each sentence. *Answers are in the appendix*

1. Those changes include stop**ping** employers in places with high unemployment rates from apply**ing** for temporary foreign workers.
2. He says Alberta has the highest job vacancy rate in Canada with many businesses already struggl**ing** to find workers.
3. And the group represent**ing** migrant workers says the changes will not end the exploitation of temporary foreign workers who are in low-paying jobs.
4. The Al-Jazeera journalists were charged with support**ing** the Muslim Brotherhood, which is called a terrorist group in Egypt.
5. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada is work**ing** to get Fahmy released.

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JUNE 27 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Don Bell. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for June 27 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	There is criticism of the Federal Government because of the changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers program. Those changes include stopping employers in places with high unemployment rates from applying for temporary foreign workers. There will also be a limit on the number of temporary foreign workers who can be hired at each worksite. Alberta Jobs Minister Kyle Fawcett says Ottawa's plan will harm the province. He says Alberta has the highest job vacancy rate in Canada with many businesses already struggling to find workers. And the group representing migrant workers says the changes will not end the exploitation of temporary foreign workers who are in low-paying jobs.	0:11
Story 2	In Egypt, Egyptian-Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy and two of his colleagues have been given seven-year prison sentences. The verdict stunned their families. The Al-Jazeera journalists were charged with supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, which is called a terrorist group in Egypt. The verdicts came after a five-month trial that Amnesty International described as a "sham," saying the rulings were "a dark day for media freedom in Egypt." The three say they were prosecuted just for doing their jobs as journalists. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada is working to get Fahmy released.	1:08
Story 3	At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil Uruguay star Luis Suarez took all the headlines last week for all the wrong reasons after his side's heated 1-0 win over Italy. Suarez appeared to bite an Italian defender late in the game. He was not penalized and a minute later Uruguay scored its only goal. Because of the bite, Suarez has been banned for the next nine international games, which rules him out for the rest of the World Cup. It isn't the first time Suarez has been in the news for biting incidents, having been suspended twice before in his career for taking a bite out of an opponent. So, naturally, social media immediately took a bite out of Suarez. A lot of tweets suggested a future for him in a remake of movies such as the shark in Jaws or a vampire in Twilight.	2:00

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
e	1. criticism	a) the state of working but looking for a job
h	2. federal	b) empty, needing to be filled
f	3. temporary	c) a maximum (or minimum) number allowed
a	4. unemployment	d) speak for
j	5. apply	e) judge negatively
c	6. limit	f) for a short time
i	7. hire	g) have a difficult time
b	8. vacancy	h) for the whole country
g	9. struggle	i) to give a job to someone
d	10. represent	j) ask for a job or position

#### Listening

1. F The Federal government is being praised for changes it made to the Temporary Foreign Workers program.
2. T Employers in places with high unemployment are now not allowed to apply for a temporary foreign worker.
3. F Workplaces will be able to hire unlimited temporary foreign workers.
4. F Alberta Jobs Minister says the changes will benefit the province.
5. T Alberta has the highest job vacancy rate in Canada.
6. T The changes will not end the exploitation of migrant workers in low paying jobs.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. I am fortunate that all my colleagues are very supportive at work.
2. The Muslim Brotherhood is considered a terrorist group by some governments.
3. After a person is charged with a crime they will be prosecuted. After the trial they must wait for the ruling / verdict (guilty or innocent) given by the judge (or jury). If the ruling / verdict is guilty the judge must then give an appropriate sentence.
4. If a punishment is too short or long the public may be stunned.
5. The family always hopes their loved one is released from prison early.
6. If a trial is not taken seriously by the lawyers or judge it may be called a sham.



## Listening

1. Who is Mohamed Fahmy?  
**He is an Egyptian-Canadian journalist working for Al-Jazeera.**
2. How long of a sentence was Fahmy and his colleagues given?  
**They were sentenced to seven years in prison.**
3. What were the Al-Jazeera journalists charged with?  
**They were charged with support in the Muslim Brotherhood.**
4. How long was their trial?  
**Their trial was 5 months.**
5. How did Amnesty International describe the trial?  
**It described the trial as a “sham” and as a “dark day for media freedom in Egypt.”**
6. What is Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird doing?  
**He is working to get Fahmy released.**

## News story 3

### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
<b>c</b>	1) headline	a) protector guard
<b>f</b>	2) appear to	b) competitor challenger
<b>a</b>	3) defender	c) title heading
<b>g</b>	4) penalized	d) event episode
<b>d</b>	5) incident	e) prohibited stopped
<b>b</b>	6) opponent	f) look like seen as
<b>e</b>	7) banned	g) disciplined punished

## Listening

1. Uruguay star Luis Suarez took all the headlines last week for _____.	a) arguing over his side's 1-0 win. <b>b) appearing to bite an Italian defender.</b>
2. He was not _____ and a minute later Uruguay scored its only goal.	a) defending well against the Italian player <b>b) penalized for biting the Italian player</b>
3. Suarez has been banned for the next nine international games, _____ for the rest of the World Cup.	<b>a) which rules him out</b> b) which means he will be bored

4. Suarez has been suspended twice before in his career for _____.	a) fighting with an opponent. b) biting an opponent.
5. So, of course, social media immediately took _____ of Suarez.	a) a bite out b) advantage
6. A lot of tweets _____ in a remake of movies such as the shark in Jaws or a vampire in Twilight.	a) suggested he create a role b) suggested a future for him

### Language Focus

1. Those changes include **stopping** employers in places with high unemployment rates from **applying** for temporary foreign workers. **Gerund / Gerund**
2. He says Alberta has the highest job vacancy rate in Canada with many businesses already **struggling** to find workers. **Gerund**
3. And the group **representing** migrant workers says the changes will not end the exploitation of temporary foreign workers who are in low-paying jobs. **Gerund**
4. The Al-Jazeera journalists were charged with **supporting** the Muslim Brotherhood, which is called a terrorist group in Egypt. **Gerund**
5. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada **is working** to get Fahmy released. **Present continuous verb**